The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

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TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER
(Members of the law firm of Padway, Woll, Thatcher, Glenn and Wilson, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)

This is the ninth of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said.

NO. 9—THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW—(Continued)

14. "Security Against Abuse of Health and Welfare Funds"

The final alleged "privilege" granted under the act is found in the regulations imposed upon the establishment and use of health and welfare funds. Again, here is an instance of the granting of a privilege already enjoyed. Most health and welfare funds were already established for the same purposes as specified in the act, and such funds were, for the most part, administered as prescribed in the act. The principle objection which can be made to the regulation is that the number of possible objects of health and welfare funds has been too greatly limited. As our economy has evolved, it has been found that there are many types of security provisions which are necessary in particular industries, and the present law prevents the establishment of funds to meet these particular situations.

The foregoing, then, are the fourteen "privileges" which have "descended on the workingman without his knowledge like a legacy." More truthfully could the author of the "Post" article have stated that these were the fourteen privileges which have descended on the workingman without his knowledge like a ton of bricks, or like a legacy of a white elephant. To anyone with even a superficial knowledge of the functioning of the trade union movement in our modern industrial economy, it is obvious that for every "claimed" gain which the workingman has been accorded under the Taft-Hartley Act, the workingman has, at the same time, been accorded a hundred detriments. Indeed, so vicious are many of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act that labor would have been better off with an outright repeal of the Wagner Act. This is said with full knowledge and appreciation of the tremendous benefits which that act did confer upon the workers of this country.

South Carolina's White Primaries Declared Illegal by Circuit Court

Richmond, Va.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals, in a significant decision, declared white primaries in South Carolina illegal.

Upholding a decision by District Judge J. Waties Waring, the Appeals Court blasted the contention of South Carolina Democratic party officers that the party there was a "voluntary political association which can exercise unrestricted choice of membership," and that Negroes had "no more right to vote in the Democratic primary than to vote in the election of officers of the Forest Lake Country Club."

"No election machinery can be upheld if its purpose or effect is to deny the Negro, on account of his race or color, an effective voice in the government of his country or the state or the community wherein he lives," said the Appeals Court decision, written by Judge John J. Parker of Charlotte, N. C.

Gov. J. Strom Thurmond and W. P. Baskin, state executive committee chairman, of South Carolina, declined to comment until after they had read the decision, but Irvine F. Belser, one of the party attorneys, said he had "no doubt that we will appeal" the decision to the nation's highest court.

Judge Waring, who enjoined South Carolina election officials from denying qualified Negro voters a voice in the primaries, said they constituted the real elections in that state.

Agreeing with his view the Appeals Court reiterated that "the political philosophy of the Declaration of Independence is that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; (that) the right to a voice in the selection of officers of government on the part of all citizens is important, not only as a means of insuring that governments shall have the strength of popular support but also as a means of securing to the individual citizen proper consideration of his rights by those in power."

Negro Workers Retain Industrial Gains Made During War, BLS Survey Discloses

Washington, D. C.—Negro workers have held onto many of the gains made during the war, according to a report published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the "Monthly Labor Review" for December.

Advances made by Negro workers include increased employment in civilian jobs, a significant shift from farm to factory, and considerable upgrading.

"Between April 1940 and April 1944, employment of Negroes in civilian jobs increased about 1 million and almost three-quarters of a million were entering the armed forces," the Review article says.

"A significant shift occurred from the farm to factory as well as considerable upgrading of Negro workers, many of whom received their first opportunity to perform basic factory operations in a semiskilled or skilled capacity.

"The characteristic concentration of Negroes in farming, domestic service, and nonfarm labor groups has been greatly modified since 1940. Approximately 7 out of 10 employed in 1940 were in those occupations, whereas in 1944 and 1947 the proportion was only slightly more than 5 out of 10.

"During World War II, substantial numbers of Negro workers shifted over to higher paying, more attractive jobs in industry and to a lesser extent into white collar occupations.

"These advances were consolidated during the immediate postwar years, and in April 1947 the broad occupational distribution of employed Negroes closely resembled the wartime distributions."

The wartime movement of Negro workers out of agriculture to meet expanding industrial needs has brought the proportion down to less than 1 in 5. At the same time, the movement of Negro men and women to factories as semiskilled operators was even more pronounced than that of white persons, the article states.

Another striking change which occurred after 1940, the study shows, is the drop in the employment of Negroes as domestics. Before World War II, over 70 percent of Negro women employed elsewhere than on farms were engaged as domestics. This proportion dropped sharply to less than 50 percent in 1944 and remained at this level in 1947.

FEDERAL JOBS BELOW 2,000,000, 6-YEAR LOW

Washington.—Civilian employment in the executive agencies of the federal government dropped during November to below 2,000,000 for the first time since 1941, the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Expenditures reported.

The congressional committee noted, however, that more than one-half the agencies reporting showed increases inside the continental United States.

The major part of the net reduction was accounted for by a decrease of 12,643 in civilian industrial personnel employed by the Army overseas.

BLACKSMITHS SIGN PACT WITH STEEL COMPANY

Chicago.—As the culmination of a successful organizing drive among the employes, the Blacksmiths have just negotiated an agreement with the Mitchell Steel Company, Cincinnati, O.

President John Pelkofer declared the pact carries a number of improvements, including wage increases, paid vacations and seniority protection. International Representative Marshall Martin handled the negotiations.

PAMPHLET AVAILABLE ON LABOR CONFERENCE DATA

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Department announced the availability of a resume of the proceedings of the 14th national conference on labor legislation held here in December.

The publication contains reports and recommendations on safety, health and workmen's compensation, state industrial relations, strengthening of state labor departments, international labor standards, wages, hours, minimum wage, industrial home work, child labor and youth employment.

A limited number of copies are available from the Division of Labor Standards.

UN STAFF MEMBERS PLAN COOPERATIVE

Lake Success.—Members of the United Nations staff appointed a committee to draw up articles of incorporation for a cooperative to serve employes of the organization.

Among the activities considered for the new enterprise are the operation of a bookstore and a food shop. The latter would be located in an apartment development where several hundred of the UN staff are housed.

Poll Shows Flat Rejection Of Taft By Labor Unions

Washington, D. C.—Results of the latest Gallup Poll blasts wide open the absurd claim that labor union members are not aroused against the Taft-Hartley law and its effects upon them as individual workers.

This fact was revealed when the public was asked to indicate its preference for President Truman or Senator Robert A. Taft in the forthcoming presidential race.

Labor union members polled in all the 48 states rolled up a 3-1 majority in favor of Mr. Truman who fought the Taft-Hartley law which was co-sired by Senator Taft. This is ample evidence of the thinking of individual union members who have not been fooled by the propaganda of business interests claiming that the law confers great privileges upon workers and frees them from the domination of grasping labor leaders.

Of great significance is the fact that the nation-wide result of the poll, without breaking down the vote by occupational groups, showed less than a 2-1 majority for Mr. Truman. The voting showed that the most vigorous opposition to Mr. Taft and the policies for which he stands was voiced by individual labor union members.

The figures used above apply when the number of voters who said they had "no opinion" are discounted. If this group is included the majorities in favor of Mr. Truman are reduced slightly but do not alter the only possible conclusion. A poll of union members, not labor leaders, resulted in the repudiation of Taft's position by an overwhelming vote.

A complete breakdown of the ballots by occupational groups shows that Taft failed to win a majority from any of them. His greatest strength came from the business and professional group as might be expected. Other groups, arranged in descending order on the basis of support given Taft, are as follows: White collar, farmers, manual workers, and labor union members.

Upholsterers Form Political Group; Hoffmann Emphasizes Need for Action

Philadelphia.—Leaders of trade unions have the responsibility of "leading the workers to the ballot box as well as leading them on the picket line," Sal B. Hoffmann, president of the Upholsterers' International Union, AFL, declared in announcing the formation of the UIU National Educational and Political Committee as an affiliate of the AFL league of that name.

"The Taft-Hartley Act," Hoffmann said, "has made all of us realize that political action is vitally necessary for organized workers, if free trade unions are to survive.

"The responsibilities of union leadership now are political as well as economic. Union leaders have a dual responsibility of:

"Leading the workers to the ballot box to fight for political democracy as well as leading them on the picket lines to fight for industrial democracy.

"Henceforth, the extent of the sincerity and responsibility of a union leader's professed loyalty and devotion to the principles of free trade unionism should be judged by his political activities.

"In my judgment, a union leader who cannot reconcile his personal political principles to the political interests of organized workers should give up his union office.

"We have not sought, nor do we seek, to interfere with the private views and principles of a member, but the union officer must place the interests of his members above his private views.

"That sounds harsh, I know, to those of us who have been raised in our country of political freedom. But we must realize one very important fact: Organized labor now is fighting for its freedom—perhaps it will have to fight for its very life before long.

"The time has come when we must stand up and be counted. Which side are we on? If we are neither hot nor cold, we will—and should—be rejected by the common sense of our members.

"Workers who, when taking union office, pledge to fight for the principles of trade unionism and to protect the welfare of union members must now fight politically if they are to keep that pledge of office.

"If their own political convictions do not permit them to fight the political enemies of free trade unionism, they owe it to themselves and to the union to leave their union offices."

Members of the new committee are the 14 top officers of the union, with Hoffmann as chairman. Local, district and shop committees are to be established to carry out the program.

Each member of the UIU will contribute at least $1, with local committees retaining 25 percent of funds collected for use in their areas. The rest will be forwarded to the national committee which will turn over 50 percent to Labor's Educational and Political League, and retain the other 25 percent for its union-wide campaign.

Plans Readied for European Labor Groups to Confer on Marshall Plan

Berlin.—Plans are being made for a conference of labor organizations in all European countries participating in development of the Marshall Plan.

This was announced by Irving Brown, the AFL's European representative, who said the purpose of the meeting is to determine how the free trade unions in Europe can best aid the industrial recovery of the continent.

While the site and time has not yet been determined, Mr. Brown said he expected it would be held during March in Brussels, Belgium.

He added that the labor organizations had an important role to play if the objectives of the plan were to be reached. In particular he stressed the part non-Communist unions would have to take to frustrate Communist plans to cause industrial chaos in France and Italy.

Mr. Brown said he believed the recent general strike in France was only a forerunner of another planned by the Communists to paralyze that country and make its contribution to European recovery relatively slight. Non-Communist-dominated unions, he added, have to explain to their members their stake in the plan's success and otherwise aid its fulfillment.

He predicted that out of the proposed conferences a new world labor organization would arise to supplant the weakened World Federation of Trade Unions. Although he expected some initial opposition to the participation of German labor leaders in these conferences, he said the latter probably would participate in later conferences.

NLRB Examiner Orders Denham Make Complaint Against ITU More Specific

Washington, D. C.—The crusade against the International Typographical Union carried on by American newspaper publishers, ably assisted by Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, received a set-back.

An NLRB examiner ordered Denham and the publishers to file a bill of particulars spelling out their charges in the case brought against the union.

The action came on a motion of the union's attorney, Gerhard Van Arkel, asking the publishers to be more specific in making their allegations which were couched in general terms. The publishers said the ITU refused to bargain collectively and demanded contract clauses which would have forced employers to discriminate against those who worked for them.

Van Arkel requested that Denham give names, dates, and places of the alleged violations, and the language of the clauses which they said the union demanded.

In granting the union's motion, the NLRB examiner ordered Denham's office to furnish:

1. The names of the newspaper employers who allegedly were required by the ITU to "discriminate against employes by imposing conditions of employment" and giving the time and date when such offenses are alleged to have taken place.

2. The "general substance" of the contract clauses by which such discrimination is alleged to have been attempted.

3. Names of employers who allegedly were required to hire only foremen who were members of the ITU.

4. Particulars in claims that individual employes "are or may be entitled to any back pay award or other remedial relief by reason of having been discriminated against"—by being denied a job or fired from one because he was not a member of the ITU.

6. Names of companies with whom the ITU or its subordinate unions refused to bargain collectively.

MINIHAN, AFL ORGANIZER, DIES

San Francisco.—Richard P. Minihan, AFL organizer and assistant president of the International Council of Sugar Workers and Allied Industries Unions, died here of a heart attack. He was 28 years old.

Congress Faced With Vital Problems As Session Opens

Marshall Plan, Taxes, Social Measures On 1948 Calendar

Washington, D. C.—The 80th Congress opened its second session confronted with a host of problems which are of vital importance to American workers and the world.

With the political implications of an election year looming large on the horizon, legislators gathered to debate and consider issues which will shape the future history of the nation.

In the coming months, the Congress will take up the proposed European Recovery Plan, the question of reduced taxes, and such controversial issues as compulsory health insurance, the broadening of social security coverage, the increase in the legal minimum wage, extension of rent control, universal military training, and federal aid to education.

In addition it is anticipated that moves will be made to introduce legislation to kill the oxnoxious Taft-Hartley law. It is not expected, however, that any real progress will be made in this direction with the present membership of Congress.

Eagerly awaited as this edition went to press was the annual message from the President on the State of the Union which will be followed by later messages concerning the nation's economy and the federal budget.

Mr. Truman's message will strongly urge adoption of the Marshall Plan presented to the special session of Congress recently adjourned. Requests for the $17,000,000,000 appropriation covering operation of the plan for a 4-year period have been withdrawn, however. Instead the President is expected to ask for a definite appropriation for the first year of operation under the plan with later sums to be considered on a yearly basis. This change in the Truman program was incorporated at the suggestion of Senator Arthur H. Vandenburg of Michigan, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

On the subject of taxes, it is expected that the President will recommend against a general tax reduction of the type written into the tax bills which he vetoed last year.

It is generally conceded that Mr. Truman will renew his request for his anti-inflation program which failed of passage during the special session. When he signed the bill which Congress passed, the President condemned it for its "insufficiency" and at that time called for early passage by the Congress of a "workable" measure which would halt the rise in the cost of living.

Among the other measures which the President is expected to discuss in his State of the Union message are proposals for legislation for federal aid to education, health insurance, broadening of social security coverage, universal military training, increasing the minimum wage, continuing and strengthening rent controls, improving civil rights laws, and approving the St. Lawrence seaway and power program.

NLRB Examiner Says Carpenters Union Violated Law's Secondary Boycott Ban

Washington, D. C.—A report of a trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board declared the AFL's Brotherhood of Carpenters guilty of violating the Taft-Hartley law's ban on secondary boycotts.

The decision, the first of its kind under the law, came after weeks of hearings in a case involving a decorating firm and a local of the union in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Unless exceptions are filed by one of the parties within 20 days, the examiner's report will have the effect of an order by the NLRB and the union will be required to notify its local union members that they may not strike to force any person to cease doing business with the decorating firm or any other firm or person.

[A lawyer for the union was reported to have declared he would file exceptions and fight the case up to the Supreme Court if necessary.]

The union was charged with violation of the secondary boycott provisions of the law when 4 carpenters working on a house struck in protest over the employment by the decorating firm of nonunion employes who were engaged in installing floor coverings. The union had declared the firm to be unfair to organized labor.

The NLRB's general counsel, Robert N. Denham, under the Taft-Hartley Act sought an injunction against the union as required in secondary boycott cases. Federal Judge Leslie R. Darr at Chattanooga refused to grant a writ on grounds that the carpenters' strike had occurred Aug. 21, the day before the labor law took effect.

The hearing examiner found that although the men were called off the job on Aug. 21, they continued to work until the end of the working day. Therefore, the examiner stated, the strike did not actually start until Aug. 22, the effective date of the law. The walkout, he held, was called in an effort to force the home owner and the contractor he had employed to cease doing business with the firm.

The examiner, however, rejected the argument of the general counsel that the picketing of the company's store with a sign stating that the company employed nonunion workers violated the Taft-Hartley Law. The complaint alleged that this picketing was union coercion of the store's employes.

He held that such picketing was permitted under Section 8 (c) of the law which allows the expression of "views, arguments or opinion" so long as the statements contained no threats of reprisal or promise of benefit.

Further appraising the coercive effect of the picketing, the examiner said:

"The most that can be said in that respect is that the picketing was intended to demonstrate to the nonunion members that it was to their advantage to become union members. It did not constitute restraint or coercion of those employes in the exercise of rights guaranteed under the act, nor did it have that effect."

Court Issues Injunction Against Teamsters Union

Utica, N. Y.—Government by injunction, sanctioned by the Taft-Hartley law, returned here when a local of the AFL's Teamsters' Union was enjoined from following six practices which were termed violations of the law.

Federal Judge Stephen W. Brennan issued the injunction on petitions of the National Labor Relations Board in behalf of the Conway Express Company of Pittsfield, Mass., and Montgomery Ward and Company of Menands, N. Y.

The union was enjoined from the following practices:

Demand for payment by Conways' Express for services not performed. The NLRB stated that the union sought wages for a union driver in the case of a truck driven from New Britain, Conn., to Cleveland, Ohio, by a nonunion driver.

Secondary boycotting. Conway's Express said that the union sought to prevent the company from doing business with the Mid-Atlantic Transportation Company of New Britain, Conn., by inducing employes of other companies not to handle Conway shipments.

Calling of a strike to force Conway's Express to cease doing business with the Mid-Atlantic Company. The union drivers walked out against Conway in September.

Refusal to bargain collectively with Conway's Express.

Demand for a closed shop agreement with Conway's Express whereby the employer must hire only members of the teamsters' union.

Threatening or coercing Conway Express employes.

In the Montgomery Ward case, in which only secondary boycotting was charged against the union, Judge Brennan ruled that the company was entitled to an injunction, but held it was not necessary to issue one in as much as the union was restrained from the alleged practice in the Conway case.

The ruling provided, however, that the Montgomery Ward case be "retained upon the docket of this court pending the final determination of the issues involved herein by the National Labor Relations Board."

Montgomery Ward was advised in the ruling that "upon showing the necessity for the issuance of an injunction," it could apply to the court "for such relief" on 24 hours' notice.

Judge Brennan said that the Montgomery Ward complaint stemmed from the union's "inability or refusal to handle incoming or outgoing Montgomery Ward merchandise." The ruling said the situation existed "approximately 48 hours," and that there was no strike or dispute between the company and any of its own employes.

U. S. FACTORY EARNINGS LEVEL OFF IN NOVEMBER

Washington, D. C.—Weekly earnings of the 12.9 million production workers in the nation's manufacturing establishments were almost unchanged in mid-November, averaging $51.02, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The November figure is only 4 cents higher than the revised figure of $50.98 reported for October.

While the average workweek decreased slightly to 40.3 hours, reflecting some holiday shutdowns and seasonal declines, activity continued at high levels in many industries. A minor rise in average hourly earnings to $1.266 offset the small decrease in weekly hours.

LOCAL RENT BOARDS ASK CONTINUANCE OF CONTROL

Washington, D. C.—Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods reported that as of December 26 he had received 328 recommendations from local rent advisory boards proposing continuance of rent controls.

Of this number, 142 advocated the maintenance of existing rent levels. The remainder of the recommendations made no reference to rent levels or requested additional time to consider the matter.

Local boards have recommended decontrol in 27 instances. Mr. Woods approved 14 of the recommendations and disapproved 13, his office announced. Only 2 of 6 requests for rent increases have been approved, it was announced.

ILO TO PREPARE LABOR'S WORLD BILL OF RIGHTS

New York City.—The International Labor Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations designed to promote social justice through labor reforms and social security measures throughout the world, will devote part of 1948 to formulating a bill of rights for labor as suggested by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The American Federation of Labor was instrumental in originating this proposed action by the ILO when it urged such procedure before the council.

Edward Phelan, director general of the ILO, announced that during 1947 the organization reconstructed its activities to a point very nearly equal to prewar levels.

PUBLIC JOB AGENCIES GET FARM PLACEMENT FUNCTION

Washington, D. C.—Public employment offices are expected to do 20 to 30 percent more business in 1948 as a result of the return to them of farm placement functions, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, predicted.

Mr. Goodwin estimated total job placements by the public employment service will be substantially higher in the coming year than the 7,000,000 recorded for 1947.

During the war, farm placement functions were carried on by the Department of Agriculture.

TAXES CHOSEN TOPIC FOR RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The topic chosen for discussion on the AFL radio program, "America United," for January 11th is "Should Taxes Be Reduced?"

Participants in the half-hour round-table program will include Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, Congressman Albert J. Engel of Michigan, Russell Porter of the National Farmers Union, and a business representative.

The program originates in Washington and is broadcast each Sunday from 1-1:30 p.m. over the nationwide network of the National Broadcasting Company. Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

STRIKES IN NOVEMBER FEWEST SINCE DEC. 1945

Washington, D. C.—Fewer strikes began in November than in any month since December 1945, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. November's preliminary total of 150 new work stoppages involved approximately 45,000 workers.

A total of about 275 stoppages were in effect during November. This includes stoppages which continued from preceding months. Altogether, about 100,000 workers were involved.

Idleness at plants or establishments directly affected by labor-management controversies during November was estimated at 700,000 man-days—less than for any month since February 1945, and amounting to only one-tenth of one percent of the time worked during the month.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER
(Members of the law firm of Padway, Woll, Thatcher, Glenn and Wilson, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)

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NO. 10—GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION

There are other objectionable features contained in the act which were not mentioned in the "Post" article and which have not been discussed thus far because they were not relevant to the discussion of the fourteen points. Thus, the whole subject of the return to the era of "government by injunction" under the provisions permitting, and in some instances requiring, the new National Labor Relations Board to obtain injunctions against various alleged union unfair labor practices has not been touched upon, although this is one of the major features of the act and one of its most objectionable ones. Prior to 1932, when there were no restrictions on the issuing of injunctions in labor disputes, abuses of the injunctive process, both by private employers and the federal government, had become so outrageous as to compel Congress to pass the Norris-LaGuardia Act drastically limiting the jurisdiction of the federal courts to issue injunctions.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, not only is that era revived, but the Government is required to secure injunctions against unions and on behalf of employers in certain situations. Among the unfair practices for which a union can be enjoined from engaging in are such broadly defined acts as restraining employes in the exercise of their right not to join the union and causing an employer to pay money for services which are not performed or to be performed. Under the former, it is possible that many ordinary organizational activities may be restrained, and under the latter it is at least arguable that there will be included restrictions against requesting paid vacations, distribution of work load, change in manning requirements, and requests for call-in pay. In addition, the board is empowered, and in many cases required, to obtain injunctions against so-called jurisdictional strikes or secondary boycotts. In a previous portion of this article we have indicated how sweeping the prohibition against such activities are.

An additional revival of the injunction method of dealing with labor disputes is set forth in Section 208 authorizing the Attorney General to issue injunctions in any so-called emergency strikes. What is or is not an emergency strike is very much open to question, and it is entirely possible that strikes which have no real effect on the national well-being will be termed "emergency" situations and injunctions will be obtained. But be that as it may, it is certain that the action of Congress in again throwing open the doors of the courts to wholesale injunctions will serve to weaken union activity. The effectiveness of any union action often depends upon the timing of the action, and thus, if temporary injunctions are obtained, it does the union no good to have it subsequently determined by the board or by an appellate court that the original injunction was wrongfully issued. The action of Congress in again opening the door to the use of the labor injunction, in spite of the known abuses attendant upon such practice, has once more indicated its purpose of discouraging rather than encouraging a strong trade union movement in this country.

Federal Mediation Service Clarifies Stand on Disputes Over Representation

Washington, D. C.—Facilities of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service are available to unions and employers engaging in the collective bargaining process, regardless of whether the union has complied with the filing requirements of the Taft-Hartley law, according to a statement released by Cyrus S. Ching, director of the FMCS.

This policy applies, however, only in situations where a labor dispute arises over the terms of settlement and does not involve questions of representation.

In a case where it appears that an employer "does not accept the authority of a union to act for the employes, and a question of representation arises," the WMCS will not enter the dispute, the statement said. Ching declared:

"This would be the policy of the service whether the employer's position is based upon the fact that the union has failed or refused to comply with the statutory filing requirements, or there is a substantial claim to recognition by another and competing union, or otherwise.

"The duties and obligations of the service arise only if the union's representative status is acknowledged and the parties are prepared to engage in collective bargaining.

"It is regarded as beyond the authority and jurisdiction of the service, in the ordinary case, therefore, to intervene for the purpose of identifying bargaining representatives."

A qualification to this policy is made in the case of representation questions arising in any labor dispute which imperils the national safety and health. The statement declared the WMCS would act in such disputes as required by the national emergency provisions of the Taft-Hartley law.

BLS Reports Strike Decline In 1947; Man-Days Lost 3d Highest On Record

Washington, D. C.—The number of strikes in 1947 was less than the figure reported for 1946, according to preliminary estimates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The report also showed the number of workers affected, and the man-days lost because of the strikes, were lower in 1947.

However, the statistics did indicate that the number of man-days lost in 1947—35,000,000 compared with 116,000,000 in 1946—was the third largest annual total on record. The loss in 1945 was 38,000,000 man-days.

The average man-days lost during the 5-year period 1935-39 was 16,949,000.

Three large disputes in 1947 were responsible for almost half the year's idleness. The country-wide telephone controversy in April and May, together with a smaller but prolonged shipyard strike in the east and a relatively brief bituminous strike, accounted for 15,000,000 man-days of idleness.

The number of strikes fell from 4,985 in 1946 to 3,600 in 1947. Last year's stoppages were of shorter duration and involved fewer workers. In 1947 there were some 2,200,000 on strike, compared with 4,600,000 in 1946 and 3,470,000 in 1945.

Federal conciliators handled about 11,400 labor controversies involving 5,000,000 workers during the past year.

AFL PAPER BOX MAKERS WIN 14% PAY BOOST

New York City.—Members of Local 299 of the AFL's Paper Box Makers Union voted to accept an offer by employers to increase wages by "about 14 percent."

A. N. Weinberg, manager of the local, announced settlement of the wage issue, in which the workers had sought an increase of 20 percent. The new wage scale, effective as of Jan. 1, provides increases ranging from 10 to 15 cents an hour, with most of the men getting 12½ or 15 cents.

PIER GUARDS WIN RAISE OF 22c IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco.—A 22-cent hourly wage increase has been granted to 500 American Federation of Labor waterfront guards and watchmen until May 15, when the present contract expires.

The increase, granted under an interim wage reopening clause, will bring the wage rate to $1.22 an hour. The men, affiliated with the Seafarers International Union, are employed by the American Patrol Service, Young's Patrol and the United States Protective Service.

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW SEEN SLOWING FACTORY OUTPUT

Washington, D. C.—Representative Arthur G. Klein of New York moved for "immediate" hearings on legislation to repeal the Taft-Hartley law to remove the turmoil in labor-management relations and thus to stimulate production.

"The only benefits of the labor law, he said, "have been to the selfish interests of those who wrote the act and lobbied it through—the National Association of Manufacturers. Even employers know now, and increasingly recognize, that chaos is a huge price to pay for such benefits. We have heard it said, over and over again, that the country needs production. But you can't have production if your labor relations are in constant turmoil."

BERRY REELECTED BY PRINTING PRESSMEN

Pressmen's Home, Tenn. — The AFL's International Printing Pressmen and Assistant's Union of North America announced the reelection of George L. Berry, president, and other officers to new 4-year terms of office.

Wholesale Food Prices Climb 2% In Week; Seen As Ill Omen for Nation's Consumers

Washington, D. C. — Wholesale prices continued their upward surge for the 9th consecutive week, with foods leading the way, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food prices on the nation's primary markets jumped 2 percent in the single week ending January 3, the bureau reported.

The impact of these increases upon the retail price level is being felt with ever greater pressure making it increasingly difficult for the average American housewife to make ends meet. This comes as no news to the workers of the nation who have seen their pay envelopes, measured in terms of purchasing power, shrinking almost weekly over the past year.

The rise carried the BLS index of all wholesale prices to another postwar peak of 164.4 percent of the 1936 average. The index was up 0.9 percent over the preceding week; 2.1 percent above a month ago, and 18.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago. It was only about 2 percent below the all-time high of May 1920.

Farm product prices rose 1.1 percent during the week ended January 3. They were 2.9 percent above four weeks ago and 19.9 above last year. On the average, food prices were 0.9 percent above a month ago and 15.9 percent above a year ago.

Prices of most meats were up, but salt pork declined. Apple prices increased and oranges advanced, but lemons declined seasonally. Both sweet and white potato prices were higher. Flour declined slightly. Butter increased and lard and edible tallow were higher.

Hog and sheep prices were higher. Poultry prices were substantially higher as a result of holiday trading. Egg prices declined seasonally. All grains except oats were lower. Raw cotton was higher.

Average prices of all commodities other than farm products and foods continued to advance, rising 0.3 percent during the week to a level 2.3 percent above a month ago and 18 percent higher than a year ago.

The weekly index of wholesale prices is assembled on about 900 commodities.

AFL's Molders Union Signs 58th Contract Marking Era of Strike-Free Relations

Chicago.—Negotiations by the AFL's Molders and Foundry Workers Union of a new contract with an employers' association marked the end of 57 years of peaceful labor-management relations during which time not a stringle strike has occurred.

Harry Stevenson, president of the union, announced the signing of a new 1 year agreement, the 58th, with the Stove Manufacturers Protective and Development Association which maintains headquarters here.

The new contract, covering 15,000 union members, provides a 10-cent hourly pay increase and 6 paid holidays for the workers employed by the association.

Meanwhile the union announced the signing of 2 other contracts covering over 10,000 additional union members.

In Atlanta, Ga., negotiations were successfully concluded for an agreement, for 1 year, with the Soil Pipe Manufacturers Association providing for a 12½-cent hourly wage boost and 6 paid holidays for the 10,000 members of the union employed by the industry. The wage increase applies to workers employed in manufacturers' plants in the North and the South.

The third contract announced by the AFL union was agreed upon with the Miami Valley Foundrymen's Association which operates plants in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Hamilton, Ohio. The 1-year agreement, covering an undisclosed number of workers, provides for a wage increase of 13 cents an hour.

ILGWU to Establish Health Center; FM Radio Station In New England City

Boston.—The International Ladies Garment Workers Union announced plans for the establishment here of a health center for union members and a frequency-modulation radio station.

To implement plans, the union purchased an 8-story building in the heart of the garment district to house the necessary facilities and to serve as offices for the union's New England region.

The building, owned by the Massachusetts General Hospital, had been leased for offices. The ILGWU plans to spend $600,000 converting the property to its own use.

Frederick P. Umhey, executive secretary of the union, said $100,000 would be spent on health and welfare facilities. These will include a completely equipped diagnostic center. More than 12,000 members of 19 locals in Greater Boston will use the center.

Dr. Joseph Kaplan, director of the Boston Medical Center and Dispensary, has been named director of the union project.

The radio station is one of 6 stations to be established by the union throughout the country. It is expected to be on the air within 8 months.

Mr. Umhey said the Boston station would have frequent news broadcasts, interspersed with music. He added it would not broadcast union propaganda. A daily religious broadcast, open to all sects, will be offered, also.

The union, Mr. Umhey said, had been forced "to go into the business of producing AM-FM receiving sets for its members." He expressed the hope that these could be sold to union members "somewhere under $50."

Mr. Umhey said the Boston station would reach 25,000 members in this area. The New York station would reach another 200,000 of the total membership of 400,000, he added. Total cost of the 6 stations would represent an investment of more than $1,000,000.

ITU Reports Gain Under New Policy

Indianapolis, Ind.—The AFL's International Typographical Union reported success in negotiations carried on with employers since passage of the Taft-Hartley law and adoption of the union's "no-contract" policy.

A report released at international headquarters here declared that 235 local ITU unions won wage increases without signing formal contracts.

The union statement said 124 of the locals are operating under "conditions of employment" as outlined at the ITU convention last August. It declared 111 other locals won "voluntary wage increases without contractual obligations" and 5 others signed "approved" contracts of indefinite duration, with 60-day cancellation clauses.

"In addition," the union statement said, "39 unions, where legal closed shop contracts are in effect, have negotiated satisfactory interim opening wage increases.

"The ITU collective bargaining policy is working despite insistence by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association and Printing Industry of America on contracts of one year or more duration."

NEW WEST COAST BLS CHIEF

Washington, D. C.—Max D. Kossoris will become regional director for the Bureau of Labor Statistics in San Francisco, according to an announcement by Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

Kossoris entered the bureau's service in 1936 and was chief of the Industrial Hazards Division prior to his new appointment.

Election Campaign Upheld By NLRB

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board refused an employer's request to throw out an election on grounds that the union involved circulated misleading statements during the election campaign.

The case concerned the AFL's United Automobile Workers, victors in a collective bargaining election held at the plant of the Carrollton Furniture Manufacturing Co., Carrollton, Ky. It was the board's first "free speech" decision since enactment of the Taft-Hartley law.

The decision declared the NLRB would not "censor propaganda material" used by unions in election campaigns.

In protesting the election, the employer maintained the union had unduly influenced the vote by spreading what the company claimed was derogatory and false campaign statements.

The NLRB replied that what the union said fell under the classification of "propaganda" and it implied that the union had a right to circulate propaganda. The company, the decision added, had the opportunity, and used it, to counteract that propaganda.

"There is no real danger," the board said, "in leaving to the good sense of the voter the task of appraising such election practices by unions and in referring to the opposing parties the duty of correcting inaccurate or untruthful statements by any of them."

Green Endorses Truman's Program For Social Justice

Highlights For Labor From President's Annual Message

Washington, D. C.—The following excerpts from President Truman's annual message on the State of the Union are of particular interest to labor:

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND EDUCATION

Our second goal is to protect and develop our human resources.

The safeguarding of the rights of our citizens must be accompanied by an equal regard for their opportunities for development and their protection from economic insecurity. In this nation the ideals of freedom and equality can be given specific meaning in terms of health, education, social security and housing.

Over the past 12 years we have erected a sound framework of social security legislation. Many millions of our citizens are now protected against the loss of income which can come with unemployment, old-age, or the death of wage-earners. Yet our system has gaps and inconsistencies; it is only half finished.

We should now extend unemployment compensation, old-age benefits and survivors' benefits to millions who are not now protected. We should also raise the level of benefits.

The greatest gap in our Social Security structure is the lack of adequate provision for the nation's health. We are rightly proud of the high standards of medical care we know how to provide in the United States. The fact is, however, that most of our people cannot afford to pay for the care they need.

Our ultimate aim must be a comprehensive insurance system to protect all our people equally against insecurity and ill-health.

Another fundamental aim of our democracy is to provide an adequate education for every person.

Our educational systems face a financial crisis. It is deplorable that in a nation as rich as ours there are millions of children who do not have adequate schoolhouses or enough teachers for a good elementary or secondary education. If there are educational inadequacies in any state the whole nation suffers. The federal government has a responsibility for providing financial aid to meet this crisis.

The government's program for health, education and security are of such great importance to our democracy that we should now establish an executive department for their administration.

HOUSING AND RENT CONTROL

Health and education have their beginning in the home. No matter what our hospitals or schools are like, the youth of our nation are handicapped when millions of them live in city slums and country shacks. Within the next decade we must see that every American family has a decent home.

As an immediate step we need the long-range housing program which I have recommended on many occasions to this Congress. This should include financial aids designed to yield more housing at lower prices. It should provide public housing for low-income families, and vigorous development of new techniques to lower the cost of building.

Until we can overcome the present drastic housing shortage we must extend and strengthen rent control.

STANDARD OF LIVING

Our fourth goal is to lift the standard of living for all our people by strengthening our economic system and sharing more broadly among our people the goods we produce.

The amazing economic progress of the past 10 years points the way for the next 10.

Today 14 more million people have jobs than in 1938.

Our yearly output of goods and services has increased by two-thirds.

The average income of our people, measured in dollars of equal purchasing power, has increased—after taxes—by more than 50 percent.

In no other 10 years have farmers, business men and wage earners made such great gains.

We may not be able to expand as rapidly in the next decade as in the last, because we are now starting from full employment and very high production. But we can increase our annual output by at least one-third above the present level. We can lift our standard of living to nearly double what it was 10 years ago.

If we distribute these gains properly we can go far toward stamping out poverty in our generation.

MINIMUM WAGE

Another basic element of a strong economic system is the well-being of the wage earner.

We have learned that the well-being of workers depends on high production and consequent high employment. We have learned equally well that the welfare of industry and agriculture depends on high incomes for our workers.

The government has wisely chosen to set a floor under wages. But our 40-cent minimum wage is inadequate and obsolete. I recommend the lifting of the minimum wage to 75 cents an hour.

In general, however, we must continue to rely on our sound system of collective bargaining to set wage scales. Workers' incomes should increase at a rate consistent with the maintenance of sound price, profit and wage relationships with increased productivity.

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

The government's part in labor-management relations is now largely controlled by the terms of the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947. I made my attitude clear on this act in my veto message to the Congress last June. Nothing has occurred since to change my opinion of this law. As long as it remains the law of the land, however, I shall carry out my constitutional duty and administer it.

INFLATION

As we enter the new year, we must surmount one major problem which affects all our goals. That is the problem of inflation.

Already inflation in this country is undermining the living standards of millions of families. Food costs too much. Housing has reached fantastic price levels. Schools and hospitals are in financial distress. Inflation threatens to bring on disagreement and strife between labor and management.

Worst of all, inflation holds the threat of another depression, just as we had a depression after the unstable boom following the first World War.

When I announced last October that the Congress was being called into session, I described the price increases which had taken place since June, 1946. Wholesale prices had increased 40 percent and retail prices had increased 23 percent.

Since October prices have continued to rise. Wholesale prices have gone up at an annual rate of 18 percent. Retail prices have gone up at an annual rate of 10 percent.

The events which have occurred since I presented my 10-point anti-inflation program to the Congress in November have made it even clearer that all 10 points are essential.

High prices must not be our means of rationing.

We must deal effectively and at once with the high cost of living. We must stop the spiral of inflation.

I trust that within the shortest possible time the Congress will make available to the government the weapons that are so desperately needed in the fight against inflation.

TAXES

Certain adjustments should be made within our existing tax structure that will not affect total receipts, yet will adjust the tax burden so that those least able to pay will have their burden lessened by the transfer of a portion of it to those best able to pay.

Many of our families today are suffering hardship because of the high cost of living. At the same time profits of corporations have reached an all-time record in 1947. Corporate profits totaled $17,000,000,000 after taxes. This compared with $12,500,000,000 in 1946, the previous high year.

Because of this extraordinarily high level of profits corporations can well afford to carry a larger share of the tax load at this time.

During this period in which the high cost of living is bearing down on so many of our families, tax adjustments should be made to ease their burden. The low-income group particularly is being pressed very hard. To this group a tax adjustment would result in a saving that could be used to buy the necessities of life.

I recommend, therefore, that, effective January 1, 1948, a cost of living tax credit be extended to our people consisting of a credit of $40 to each individual taxpayer and an additional credit of $40 for each dependent. Thus the income tax of a man with a wife and two children would be reduced $160. The credit would be extended to all taxpayers, but it would be particularly helpful to those in the low-income group.

It is estimated that such a tax credit would reduce the federal revenue by $3,200,000,000. This reduction should be made up by increasing the tax on corporate profits in an amount that will produce this sum—with appropriate adjustment for small corporations.

This is the proper method of tax relief at this time. It gives relief to those who need it most without cutting the total tax revenue of the government.

Says President's Plan To Lower Taxes Best Yet Submitted

Washington, D. C. — AFL President William Green endorsed the program submitted to Congress by President Truman as a "liberal" one "calculated in most respects to meet the needs and the desires of the American people."

Mr. Green singled out the social justice portions of the President's message for special praise and promised full support of the AFL in working for broadening of the social security program, a long-range housing measure, health insurance, increase in the minimum wage, and the strengthening and protection of civil rights.

On the subject of taxes, Mr. Green declared Mr. Truman's proposal for a $40 tax credit for taxpayers and their dependents is "far more acceptable than any plan yet offered in Congress."

The AFL leader said he was pleased at the President's reiteration of his opposition to the Taft-Hartley law, "the evils of which will become increasingly manifest in the months to come."

The text of Mr. Green's statement is as follows:

"President Truman yesterday presented to Congress a liberal program calculated in most respects to meet the needs and the desires of the American people.

"Congress cannot evade the issues emphasized by the President. It must stand or fall on its record. The November elections will provide a true test on whether we shall have liberal or reactionary government in America.

"The American Federation of Labor specifically endorses the social justice program offered by the President, including broader social security, a long-range housing program, insurance and the protection of the civil rights of racial and religious minorities.

"We share the President's deep concern over the alarming progress of inflation and join in his demand for prompt action to halt increasing living costs.

"His tax reduction proposals are far more acceptable than any plan yet offered in Congress because they afford equal relief to all taxpayers.

"Labor was particularly pleased by the President's strong reiteration of his opposition to the Taft-Hartley Act, the evils of which will become increasingly manifest in the months to come."

Wallace's 3d Party Assailed By Green

Washington, D. C.—Speaking as an individual, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, came out against Henry Wallace as an independent candidate for President of the United States.

Mr. Green expressed his personal views in response to reporters' questions and his statement was not an official AFL pronouncement.

The AFL leader said "the creation of a third party was a great political mistake and labor generally will be opposed to Mr. Wallace's candidacy."

Mr. Green declared that as the picture unfolds, it will be made clear that Mr. Wallace is sponsored largely by Communists.

"I am against him," he said. "I have followed his speeches closely. From them I got the impression that Russia is right and the United States is wrong in all the conferences that have been held to promote peace. I believe in America first.'"

Mr. Green asserted that "Genuine liberals and progressives who think clearly and soundly will not be for him."

"If Mr. Wallace's candidacy helps any party it will help a reactionary Republican candidate," added Mr. Green.

"To that extent it will help the Communists, too."

The AFL president mentioned Robert A. Taft as "a noted reactionary" seeking the presidential nomination.

PUERTO RICAN MINIMUM WAGE HEARINGS PLANNED

Washington, D. C.—Public hearings will be held to consider higher minimum wage recommendations for 12 Puerto Rican industries, William R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division of the Labor Department announced.

The recommendations to be considered were made by an industry committee which reexamined a total of 14 industry wage schedules.

The entire procedure of industry studies, recommendations, and public hearings is in accordance with a special provision of the Wage-Hour law which permits the establishment in Puerto Rican industry of wage rates lower than the statutory minimum wage in the continental United States.